

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 1 and 9-12 have been amended. Claim 15 has been newly added. No new matter is presented.

Claims 1 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) on Miyamoto (U.S. Patent No. 5,701,402). Applicants traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a process cartridge having a nonvolatile memory for storing two sets of destination information, a first destination information and a second destination information. The first destination information is used by a control system of a main body to control printing, while the second destination information is not used to control a printing operation. As an example of a first destination information, paragraph [0073] of applicants' specification discloses storing a code that indicates the version number of the process cartridge. This code is then used by the control system as described in paragraphs [0088]-[0093] to control a printing operation. In contrast, the destination code disclosed in paragraph [0070] and depicted in Figure 3 (reference numeral 3), represents the destination code of the process cartridge. This information can be used to track the process cartridge, but is not used by the control system to control a printing operation.

Miyamoto does not disclose or suggest storing a second destination information in a non-volatile memory. While the Examiner asserts that that Figure 3, Figure 7 and col. 3, lines 55-60, disclose this feature, applicants respectfully disagree. As the Examiner concedes, Miyamoto discloses non-volatile storage in which addresses 5-63 are vacant (see Figure 3). However, the Examiner then asserts that these admittedly "empty" addresses disclose the storing of second destination information. Applicants' submit that vacant space in a memory cannot disclose the storing of a specified type of information.

Accordingly, Miyamoto does not disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 1, which is therefore allowable over Miyamoto.

With respect to claim 8, the Examiner asserts that the addresses 5-63 of Miyamoto where FFFFH are inputted corresponds to the claimed first unused address. The Examiner also asserts that either process condition address could correspond to the claimed second unused address, since they currently have the values XXXXH. Applicants respectfully disagree.

According to claim 8, the claimed second unused addresses contain no stored data. For example, in Fig. 8 of the present application, addresses 27-39, 42-47, and 52-58 are marked as undefined, meaning they contain no data. Further, paragraph [0098] of the specification discloses that the reason why no data is stored in the second unused addresses 27-39, 42-47, and 52-58 in the EEPROM 20 (referring to Fig. 8) is that there is no possibility of extending the data area up to those addresses in the future. Thus, Miyamoto fails to teach or suggest the claimed second unused address because Miyamoto does not disclose any addresses which contain no data.

Accordingly, Miyamoto does not disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 8, which is therefore allowable over Miyamoto. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2-7 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Miyamoto in view of Hirst (U.S. Patent No. 5,930,553). Applicants traverse this rejection.

Hirst does not disclose or suggest the above discussed features of claims 1 and 8, nor has the Examiner asserted that Hirst discloses these features. Therefore, claims 2-7 and 9-11, which depend from allowable claims 1 and 8, are also allowable.

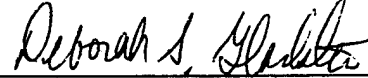
Claims 12-14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Miyamoto in view of Hirst and applicants' admitted prior art. Applicants have overcome this rejection by amending claim 12 to recite substantially the same features as discussed above in connection with claim 1. Thus, Miyamoto fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 12. Hirst and applicants' admitted art do not overcome the deficiencies of Miyamoto, and thus claim 12 is allowable over the combination of Miyamoto, Hirst and applicants' admitted prior art. Claims 13 and 14 depend from allowable claim 12 and are therefore also allowable. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Newly added claim 15 is allowable at least due to its dependency from claim 8.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing our Docket No. 204552021000.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Deborah S. Gladstein

Registration No.: 43,636
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 778-1646